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**GEORGES POTHIER, GEORGES POTHIER, Audience: 256,000** 

LE MINISTRE DES FINANCES DU QUEBEC VA DEPOSER UN BUDGET DES LE 20 NOVEMBRE PROCHAIN. LE MINISTRE DES FINANCES DU QUEBEC VA DEPOSER UN BUDGET DES LE 20 NOVEMBRE PROCHAIN. L'ETAT, QUI FAIT FACE A UN MANQUE A GAGNER DE 1,6 MILLIARDS DE \$, SOUHAITE REVENIR A L'EQUILIBRE BUDGETAIRE EN 2013-2014. LA CAQ ET LE PLQ S'OPPOSENT A UNE HAUSSE DES IMPOTS POUR AUGMENTER LES REVENUS. L'IEDM SALUE LA VOLONTE DU PQ DE REVENIR A L'EQUILIBRE BUDGETAIRE. "PAULINE MAROIS" PM DU QUEBEC. "GILLES DUCEPPE" ANCIEN CHEF DU BQ. / ENTREVUE AVEC "YANICK LABRIE" ECONOMISTE, INSTITUT ECONOMIQUE DE MONTREAL.

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### Trade freely with Europe step in right direction

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MICHEL **KELLY-GAGNON** 

### SPECIAL TO QMI AGENCY

Tariffs, protection for specific industries and other barriers have no rationale apart from pleasing some politically influential constituencies. By making trade more difficult, they impoverish us all.

That's why we should commend the Stephen Harper government for its zeal in seeking free-trade deals with various countries around the world. Ottawa has so far signed agreements with nine relatively minor countries. But we are negotiating or are about to start negotiating with several more, including major players such as Japan, India, China and other Pacific region countries.

More importantly, nego-

tiations for a Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with the European Union are said to be in their final phase. Europe is the world's single-largest common market with more than 500 million people and a GDP of almost \$17 trillion.

Although the debate has attracted far less interest with the general public, some of the same protectionist fallacies that were raised 25 years ago with NAFTA are being used today to oppose a deal with Europe.

The Council of Canadians has launched a campaign to shield municipalities from possibly more open procurement requirements and to allow "buy local" policies.

As a Montrealer watching the news every day about how the local mob got control of the city's construction contracts, I welcome more openness to outside firms.

One chief concern that has attracted a lot of attention of late private providers offer services and is said to threaten the deal is the European demand that Canada extend patent protection for pharmaceuticals to match its own standards.

That could lead to higher health care costs, by delaying the advent of lower-cost generics. But that's not a good reason to scuttle a deal.

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Second, all good things have a cost. We should not forget that innovative new drugs increase the well-being and life expectancy of patients and bring down the cost of other treatments.

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It's ironic this issue is being raised in the context of negotiating an agreement with Europe. Most European countries have universal health-care systems that cost the same or less than ours, but where waiting lists for surgeries are nonexistent.

Why?

In part, because they let

instead of keeping a closed, government-controlled monopoly.

A kind of "freer trade" in health care services.

And that, too, would bring benefits to all.

— <u>Michel Kelly-Gagnon</u> is president of the Montreal Economic Institute (www.<u>iedm</u>. org). The views reflected in this column are his own.







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**GEOFF ROBINS** Reuters files

Prime Minister Stephen Harper should be commended for his pursuit of free-trade deals columnist Michel Kelly-Gagnon says, adding that such a deal with the European Union is welcome as well.

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### **ECONOMY**

### **Trade** freely with Europe

Special to QMI Agency

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public, some of the same protection- private providers offer services ist fallacies that were raised 25 years instead of keeping a closed, governago with NAFTA are being used ment-controlled monopoly. today to oppose a deal with Europe.

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> Michel Kelly-Gagnon is president of the Montreal Economic Insti-tute (www.iedm.org). The views



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■ ECONOMICS: Health care system could get a booster from overseas models

### Trade freely with Europ

### MICHEL KELLY-GAGNON

Special to QMI Agency

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**GEOFF ROBINS** Reuters files

Prime Minister Stephen Harper should be commended for his pursuit of free-trade deals columnist Michel Kelly-Gagnon says, adding that such a deal with the European Union is welcome as well.

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### **Let's trade freely with Euros**

### MICHEL KELLY-GAGNON

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper should be commended for his pursuit of free-trade deals, Michel Kelly-Gagnon says, adding that such a deal with the European Union is welcome as well.

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### **Frade freely with Europe**

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### **ECONOMICS:** Health care system could get a booster from overseas models



**GEOFF ROBINS** Reuters files

Prime Minister Stephen Harper should be commended for his pursuit of free-trade deals columnist Michel Kelly-Gagnon says, adding that such a deal with the European Union is welcome as well.

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### Let's trade freely with Euros

### **MICHEL KELLY-GAGNON**

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Prime Minister Stephen Harper should be commended for his pursuit of free-trade deals, Michel Kelly-Gagnon says, adding that such a deal with the European Union is welcome as well.

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### rade freely with Europe

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### **Trade freely with Europe**

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**MICHEL** 

### **KELLY-GAGNON**

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### MICHEL KELLY-GAGNON

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Michel Kelly-Gagnon is president of the Montreal Economic Institute (www.iedm.org). The views reflected in this column are his own.



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### **ECONOMICS:** Health care system could get a booster from overseas models



**GEOFF ROBINS** Reuters files

Prime Minister Stephen Harper should be commended for his pursuit of free-trade deals columnist Michel Kelly-Gagnon says, adding that such a deal with the European Union is welcome as well.

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### rade freely with Europe

### MICHEL KELLY-GAGNON

Special to QMI Agency

One of the best-established law of economics is that trade is attracted a lot of attention of late good for all parties. By specializing in some types of production is the European demand that and exchanging with others, we become more productive at what we do, while being able to access goods and services produced by millions of other individuals.

Tariffs, protection for specific industries and other barriers have no rationale apart from pleasing some politically influential constituencies. By making trade more difficult, they impoverish us all.

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■ **ECONOMICS:** Health care system could get a booster from overseas models

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## Trade freely ith Europ

### MICHEL KELLY-GAGNON

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■ ECONOMICS: Health care system could get a booster from overseas models

### rade freely with Europ

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Special to OMI Agency

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**GEOFF ROBINS** Reuters files

Prime Minister Stephen Harper should be commended for his pursuit of free-trade deals columnist Michel Kelly-Gagnon says, adding that such a deal with the European Union is welcome as well.

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### **ECONOMICS:** Health care system could get a booster from overseas models



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Prime Minister Stephen Harper should be commended for his pursuit of free-trade deals columnist Michel Kelly-Gagnon says, adding that such a deal with the European Union is welcome as well.

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**■ ECONOMICS:** Health care system could get a booster from overseas models

# Trade freely

### MICHEL KELLY-GAGNON

Special to QMI Agency

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GEOFF ROBINS Reuters files Prime Minister Stephen Harper should be commended for his pursuit of free-trade deals columnist Michel Kelly-Gagnon says, adding that such a deal with the European Union is welcome as well.

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### Let's trade freely with Euros

### MICHEL KELLY-GAGNON

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### **Trade freely with Europe**

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